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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/750,487	12/27/2000	John J. Giobbi	MD-1	5898
7590	11/18/2004		EXAMINER	
Michael J. Blankstein 2014 Harrison Street Evanston, IL 60201-2222			JACKSON, JENISE E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2131	

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/750,487	GIOBBI, JOHN J.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jenise E Jackson	2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 26-47 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 26-47 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 26-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Spies et al.(6,055,314).
3. As per claims 26, 38, 47, Spies et al. discloses a method of acquiring and playing digital content(see col. 2, lines 25-26), acquiring a physical electronic key(i.e. IC card/smart card)(see col. 2, lines 50-67) containing key code from a key provider(see col. 5, lines 45-47, 55-67, col. 6, lines 19-28); requesting digital content from a content provider(see col. 4, lines 61-67, col. 5, lines 10-18); after locking(i.e. encrypt) the digital content with an unlock code associated with the key code contained in the physical electronic key(see col. 3, lines 20-51), receiving the locked digital content; and entering the locked digital content into a playing device that reads the key code and determines whether the key code is associated with the unlock code(see col. 2, lines 54-58, col. 3, lines 5-13, col. 6, lines 19-33), the device being enabled to unlock code(see col. 6, lines 19-33). Spies discloses a physical key being a physical object adapted to be carried by a user apart from the playing device(col. 5, lines 62-67, col. 6, lines 25-31).
4. As per claim 27, Spies et al. discloses the step of acquiring the physical electronic key includes providing the key provider with user identification for use by the key provider in

establishing a user account, the user account including the user identification information and the key code(see col. 8, lines 26-55, col. 15, lines 60-67, col. 16, lines 1-2).

5. As per claim 28, Spies et al. discloses including providing the content provider with the key code for use by the content provider in validating the key code prior to providing the locked digital content(see col. 4, lines 61-67, col. 5, lines 10-22, col. 2, lines 54-58).

6. As per claim 29, Spies et al. discloses wherein the locked digital content is locked by encryption and unlocked by decryption(see col. 3, lines 19-51, col. 6, lines 15-33).

7. As per claim 30, Spies et al. discloses wherein the step of acquiring the physical electronic key(see col. 2, lines 25-26) includes accessing a first web site of the key provider, and requesting the physical electronic key via the first web site(see col. 8, lines 44-46), and wherein the step of requesting the digital content includes accessing a second web site of the content provider, and requesting the digital content via the second web site(see col. 6, lines 34-58).

8. As per claim 31, Spies et al. discloses wherein the physical electronic key is acquired at no charge, and wherein the digital content is purchased(see col. 2, lines 54-58).

9. As per claim 32, Spies et al. discloses a method of managing digital rights(see col. 2, lines 25-31). Further, limitations have already been addressed(see claim 26).

10. As per claim 33, Spies et al. discloses establishing a user account including user identification information and the key code for the requesting user prior to the step of providing the physical electronic key(col. 8, lines 26-55, col. 15, lines 60-67, col. 16, lines 1-2).

11. As per claim 34, Spies et al. discloses obtaining and validating the key code for the requesting user prior to the step of providing the locked digital content(see col. 4, lines 61-67, col. 5, lines 10-22, col. 2, lines 54-58).

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12. As per claim 35, Spies discloses including administering a first web site for receiving a request for the physical electronic key from the requesting user(see col. 8, lines 44-46), and administering a second web site for receiving a request for the digital content from the requesting user (see col. 6, lines 34-58).
13. As per claim 36, Spies discloses wherein the locked digital content is locked by encryption and unlocked by decryption(see col. 3, lines 19-51, col. 6, lines 15-33).
14. As per claim 37, Spies discloses wherein the physical key and the playing device include respective wireless transceivers for communicating the key code from the key to the playing device, is inherent in Spies because Spies discloses that the system can be in the form of wireless communications, such as RF communications(see col. 14, lines 55-58).
15. As per claim 38, it is rejected under the same basis as clam 26.
16. As per clam 39, limitations have already been addressed (see claim 33).
17. As per claim 40, Spies et al. discloses wherein the means for providing the locked digital content to the requesting user includes a web site on the Internet(see col. 6, lines 34-58).
18. As per claim 41, Spies et al. discloses wherein the means for providing the locked digital content secures validation of the key code prior to providing the locked digital content(col. 4, lines 61-67, col. 5, lines 10-22, col. 2, lines 54-58).
19. As per claim 42, it is rejected under the same basis as claim 33.
20. As per claim 43, Spies et al. discloses wherein the means for providing the physical electronic key includes a web site on the Internet(see col. 8, lines 44-46).
21. As per claim 44, limitations have already been addressed (see claim 26).

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22. As per claim 45, Spies discloses wherein the digital content is locked by encryption and unlocked by decryption(col. 3, lines 19-51, col. 6, lines 15-33).

23. As per claim 46, Spies discloses wherein the physical electronic key and the playing device include means for communicating the key code to the playing device(see col. 6, lines 19-33).

Response to Amendment

24. In regards to Applicant's remarks in regards to Wiser reference that discloses a software key and not a physical key, the Examiner has applied new art(see above). Thus, the remarks to Wiser, and Paget are moot.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jenise E Jackson whose telephone number is (571) 272-3791. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.) alternate Friday's.

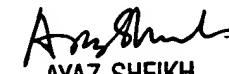
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on (571) 272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



November 6, 2004



AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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